United Nations A/56/L.57

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
11 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 20 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Argentina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Honduras, India, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Panama, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995, 52/172 of 16 December 1997 and 54/97 of 8 December 1999, and taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of those resolutions, including resolution 55/171 of 14 December 2000 on closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and complexity and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

01-68868 (E) 111201

Expressing profound concern about the ongoing effects of the consequences of this accident on the lives and health of people, in particular children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other affected countries,

Acknowledging the importance of the national efforts being undertaken by the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Emphasizing the importance that the authorities of the affected countries provide full cooperation in and facilitate efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, including the efforts by non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance, and appreciating the progress already made in this regard,

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by States and by organization of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and the activities of regional and other organizations, as well as bilateral activities and those of non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing the importance of continuing international support to the national efforts of the Governments and civil societies of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as the most affected countries, to mitigate and minimize the persisting negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster on the sustainable development of the affected areas as a result of the radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental consequences of the disaster,

Welcoming the increased role played by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in helping to address both the developmental and the humanitarian consequences of the catastrophe,

Noting the United Nations needs assessment mission to the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in July and August 2001, as well as the visit of the Deputy United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to those countries in October 2001, and emphasizing the need to consider incorporation of their findings and outcomes into the new United Nations strategy to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 54/97,[1]

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations plays an important catalytic and coordinating role in the strengthening of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and commends the contribution made by all other relevant multilateral mechanisms to this end;

2. *Welcomes* the practical measures that have been taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to strengthen the coordination of the international efforts in that area, especially the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States of

[1] A/56/447.

the United Nations Development Programme as Deputy Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl;

3. *Welcomes also* the efforts undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system, members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl for implementing a new developmental approach towards studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and requests the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl to further continue its activities to that end;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of full cooperation and assistance by the authorities of the affected countries in facilitating the work of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, notes the measures already taken by the Governments of the affected countries in this regard, and encourages them to take further measures to simplify their relevant internal procedures and to identify ways in which to make their systems of granting exemption from customs and other duties more effective with regard to goods provided free of charge as humanitarian assistance by humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations;

5. *Acknowledges* the difficulties faced by the most affected countries in minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and invites States, in particular donor States and all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts made by Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, including through the allocation of additional funds to support medical, social, economic and ecological programmes related to the Chernobyl disaster;

6. *Notes* the appeal by the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to the donor community to consider allocating additional resources to the humanitarian aspects of the Chernobyl disaster;

7. *Stresses* the need for coordinated international cooperation in the field of studying the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and invites the Member States and all interested parties to take part in and to promote the activities of the International Chernobyl Centre on Nuclear Safety, Radioactive Waste and Radioecology as an important mechanism of scientific research in the unique conditions of the Chernobyl zone and the Shelter facility;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, while implementing specific Chernobyl-related programmes and projects;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider possible ways for further strengthening the coordination, analytical and technical capacities of the United Nations in the field, as well as at Headquarters, as described in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] with due regard to the existing administrative and budgetary procedures of the Organization;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, under a separate sub-item, a report containing a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of all aspects of the present resolution and proposals for innovative measures for optimizing the effectiveness of the response of the international community to the Chernobyl disaster.